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OCCURRENCE OF *CEPHRENES AUGIADES SPERTHIAS* (ORANGE PALMDART BUTTERFLY) IN PERTH

By MICHAEL HUTCHISON, 11 Birchwood Ave., Woodlands, W.A. 6018.

It appears that an eastern Australia species of butterfly, *Cephrènes augiades sperthias* (Orange Palmdart), has established a breeding population in Perth. The natural range of this sub-species is from Torres Strait to the Illawara district of New South Wales. Other sub-species occur beyond Australia. The species is a member of the family Hesperiidæ (sub-family Hesperiniæ). The larvae feed on the fronds of palms, including the native *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (Bangalow Palm) and *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm) and various ornamental species.

On November 4, 1977 my father, Brian Hutchison, collected an adult male specimen of *C. augiades sperthias* at a plant nursery in Wanneroo. As this nursery had imported palms from Brisbane, it is very likely that this was the means by which the specimen reached Western Australia. I did not record any more specimens until February 2, 1982 I collected two adult male specimens in my garden in Woodlands. I observed further specimens nearly every day in February, including several females. Many gardens in Woodlands contain palms so the *Cephrènes* could breed in the district. During the same month my father observed an adult male in Mount Lawley. On March 1, 1982 I collected an adult female specimen in my garden.

During March I observed many adult specimens of *C. a. sperthias* in the campus gardens of the University of Western Australia, Nedlands. There are many palms in the gardens and a search revealed many eggs, larvae and empty pupal cases on two species; *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) and *Howea belmoreana* (Kentia Palm). Larvae were also found on these two species and on *Cocos plumosa* (Queen Palm) in the grounds of Nedlands College and on *Cocos plumosa* in Applecross.

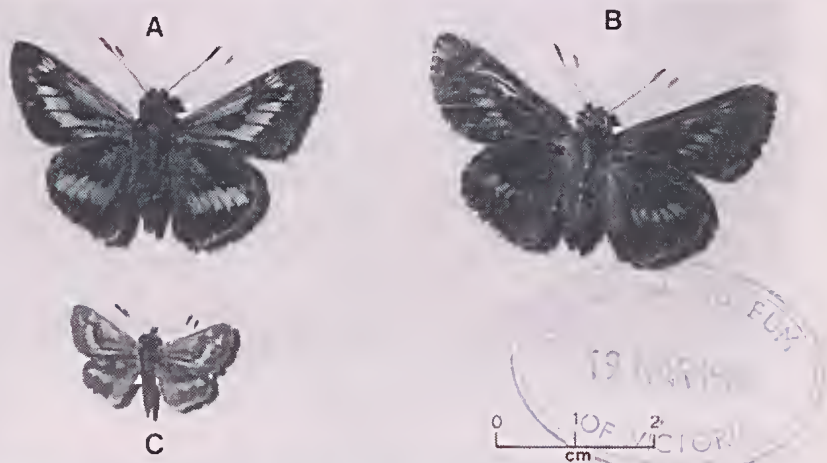


Figure 1. A. *Cephrènes augiades sperthias* (adult male).
B. *Cephrènes augiades sperthias* (adult female).
C. *Taractrocera papyria agraulia* (Photo: C. Labrooy).

In mid April I collected some final instar larvae at the University. They pupated in a few days and emerged by the first week of May. I observed adults on the wing in Woodlands until mid May. In Sydney the flying period is from October to April.

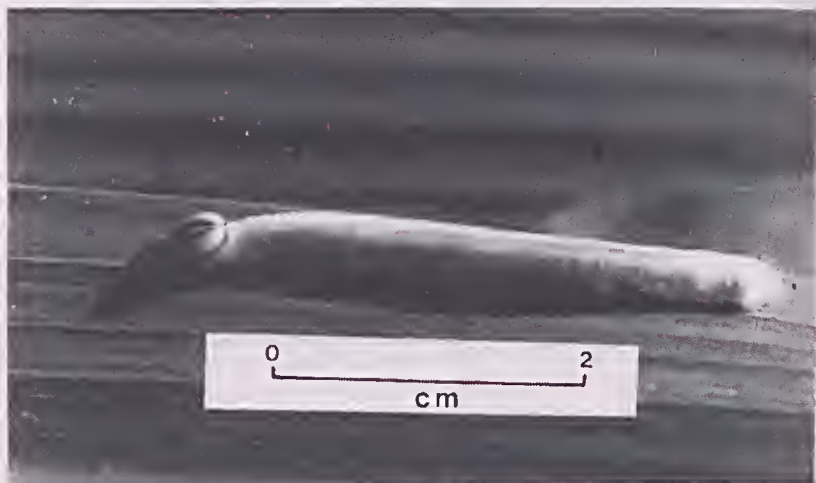


Figure 2. Larva of *Cephrenes augiades sperthias* (final instar).

It is very likely that *C. a. sperthias* was introduced to Perth on palms imported from Queensland or New South Wales by plant nurseries from which the palms would have been distributed to gardens throughout the metropolitan area.

In the South-West of Western Australia there is an indigenous representative of the sub-family Hesperinae, which is similarly marked to male Orange Palmdarts; however this form, *Taractrocera papyria agraulia* (the Western Grassdart), is much smaller and there should be no confusion. The mature larvae of Orange Palmdarts are pale bluish or greenish in colour, and construct shelters by joining adjacent palm leaves with strong strands of silk. The larvae pupate within these shelters and are surrounded by a white waxy powder.

If you find evidence that *C. augiades sperthias* occurs in your district could you please contact me at 11 Birchwood Ave., Woodlands or telephone 446 2335.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Gordon Smith of the Botany Department of the University of Western Australia identified palms on the University Campus.

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EFFECTS OF UNSEASONABLE RAINS IN JANUARY 1982 ON WATERFOWL IN SOUTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA II. RECORDS OF LATE BREEDING FROM INLAND LOCALITIES.

By HUGO BEKLE Department of Geography, University of Western Australia, Nedlands 6009.

ABSTRACT

Following heavy unseasonable rains in January 1982, records from newly flooded areas in inland south-western Australia detailed late breeding activity in Grey Teal (*Anas gibberifrons*), Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) and to a much lesser extent in Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*). Large concentrations of ducks were